2 GENT. But what's the matter ?

1 *GENT.* His daughter, and the heir of his kingdom, whom

proposed, Sir Thomas Hanmer's is the more licentious; but be makes the sense clear, and leaves the reader an easy passage. Dr. War-burton has corrected with more caution, but less improvement: his reasoning upon his own reading is so obscure and perplexed, that I suspect some injury of the press.—I am now to tell my opinion, which is, that the lines stand as they were originally written, and that a paraphrase, such as the licentious and abrupt expressions , of our author too frequently require, will make emendation unnecessary. " We do not meet a man but frowns; our bloods— " our countenances, which, in popular speech, are said to be regulated by the temper of the blood,—"no more obey *the laws* o/'heaven," •—which direct us to appear what we really are,—" than our courtiers :"—that is, than the 'bloods of our courtiers;' but our bloods, like theirs,—"still seem, as doth the king's." JOHNSON.

In The Yorkshire Tragedy, 1608, which has been attributed to Shakspeare, *blood* appears to be used for *inclination :*

" For 'tis our *blood* to love what we are forbidden." Again, in King Lear, Act IV. Sc. II.:

«------Were it my fitness

" To let these hands obey my *blood."* In King Henry VIII. Act III. Sc. IV. is the same thought:

"-------subject to your countenance, glad, or sorry,

<e As I saw it inclin'd."

Again, in Greene's Never Too Late, 4to. 1590 : " if the King smiled., every one in the court was in his jollitie; if he frowned, their plumes fell like peacock's feathers, so that their outward presence depended on his inward passions." STEEVENS.

I would propose to make this passage clear by a very slight alteration, only leaving out the last letter :

" You do not meet a man but frowns : our bloods " No more obey the heavens, than our courtiers " Still seem, as does the *king."*

That is, " Still look as the king does; " or, as he expresses it a little differently afterwards:

««---wear their faces to the bent

" Of the king's look." TYEWHITT.

The only error that I can find in this passage is, the mark of the genitive case annexed to the word *courtiers,* which appears to be a modern innovation, and ougbt to be corrected. The meaning of it is this:—" Our dispositions no more obey the heavens than our courtiers do; they still seem as the king's does." The obscurity arises from the omission of the pronoun *they,* by a common poetical licence. M. MASON.